

Message Text

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ACTION USIA-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-09 ISO-00 AF-05 CU-04 DRC-01 RSC-01

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P R 122017Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3225

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS BOGOTA 5168

FOR USIA/ILA DOROTHY DILLON AND ARA DEPT ASST SEC SCHLAUDEMAN

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: NA

SUBJ: REGIONAL ENGLISH TEACHING RESOURCE CENTER

REF: A) USIA 10247; B) RABAT 2619

1. REF A PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT IN BOGOTA OF ENGLISH TEACHING RESOURCE CENTER AND ASKED FOR EMBASSY CLEARANCE TO ADD ADDITIONAL POSITION TO MISSION COMPLEMENT. REF B WAS TM5 ASSIGNING VERNON SCOTT MURBACH TO THAT POSITION WITHOUT WAITING FOR EMBASSY REPLY TO REF A WHICH HAD NOT YET BEEN SENT. I AM BOTH SURPRISED AND DISMAYED BY ACTION TAKEN IN REF B, PRECISELY BECAUSE I DO HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT ADDING TO MISSION COMPLEMENT.

2. SPECIFIC PROPOSAL CONTAINED REF A HAS ONLY JUST BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION. IT COMES AT A TIME WHEN, AS THE DEPT AND USIA ARE AWARE, I AM ENJOINED BY BOTH THE IG AND THE RECENTLY COMPLETED INSPECTORS' REPORT TO UNDERTAKE A SURVEY OF MISSION STAFFING WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING PERSONNEL. THE INSPECTORS' REPORT WAS ESPECIALLY FIRM IN RECOMMENDING REDUCTIONS. THE REQUESTED STUDY IS DUE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE IG BY OCT 1.

3. THAT BEING THE CASE IT MAKES NO SENSE TO INCREASE THIS MISSION'S STAFFING NOW BY ONE AMERICAN AND THREE LOCALS BEFORE THE SURVEY IS COMPLETED. I RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF THE CONCEPT

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OF THE TEACHING CENTER, BUT I CANNOT AT THIS TIME WEIGH TRADE-

OFFS TO DETERMINE WHETHER WE SHOULD APPROPRIATELY ACCEPT THESE
ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AS ADD-ONS OR IN LIEU OF OTHERS, AND WILL
NOT BE ABLE TO DO SO UNTIL OUR SURVEY IS COMPLETED. THE FACT
THAT THE POSITION IS A REGIONAL ONE DOES NOT GREATLY CHANGE THESE
CONSIDERATIONS, SINCE BOTH ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND RESIDENT
VISIBILITY ARE INVOLVED.

4. ACCORDINGLY, I RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDE THAT I CANNOT APPROVE THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS POSITION AT THIS TIME. I REGRET THE IN-
CONVENIENCE AND DIFFICULTIES THIS MAY CAUSE MURBACH, BUT I
REPEAT MY SURPRISE THAT ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN
TAKEN BEFORE REQUESTED EMBASSY CLEARANCE WAS RECEIVED. IN THE
CIRCUMSTANCES I RECOMMEND THAT A DECISION AS TO WHERE TO PLACE
THE REGIONAL CENTER BE DELAYED UNTIL COMPLETION OF OUR SURVEY.
IF ADMINISTRATIVELY OR FOR OTHER REASONS THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE,
THEN I REGRETFULLY CONCEDE MURBACH SHOULD BE PLACED ELSEWHERE.
VAKY

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